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REMARKS

Applicants have thoroughly considered the Examiner's remarks set forth in the Office action mailed February 6, 2004 and have amended the claims to more clearly set forth the invention. Applicants' attorney appreciated the opportunity to discuss the application with the Examiner on May 4, 2004. The amendments and following remarks summarize and supplement the interview. This Amendment cancels claims 1-65, and adds new claims 66-72. Thus, claims 66-72 are presented in the application for further consideration.

As discussed during the interview with the Examiner, applicants have added new claim 66 directed to the thin web client interface as disclosed in the present application. The present application describes and illustrates specific web forms (see FIGS. 6-8) that allow a user to interact with stored billing records data for which an invoice has not yet been issued to the user, and allow the user to select from a group of delivery option in which to receive information about the stored billing records.

According to the present invention, an account options web page includes a view statement hyperlink, a search statement hyperlink, and a monitor/alert hyperlink. (See application page 37, lines 17-20.) When the account options web page is displayed on the user computer, the user can view a formal billing statement online by selecting the view statement hyperlink. (See page 38, lines 1-7.) The event monitor causes specified queries to be routinely issued to the query logic until a specified condition is met. For example, when transaction records included in the results of a query indicate that the condition is met, the event monitor then provides an alert message to the user via a voicemail message, a fax, or an email message relating to one or more of the transaction records. (See page 36 lines 5-10.)

To this end, new claim 66 recites, in part:

a. "requesting second input data from the user via the graphical interface, the graphical interface presenting to the user with delivery options including email, fax, voice mail, and the graphical interface, said second data defining one of the delivery options for the select billing records to be provided to the user";

b. "receiving the defined query over a data network, the query seeking which of the billing records associated with the user's telecommunications account satisfy the one or more parameters of the query";

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c. "searching the database to identify individual billing records associated with the user's telecommunications account which satisfy the one or more parameters of the query received from the user"; and

c. "selectively providing the identified billing records found by the searching to the user as a function of the second input data received from the user via graphical interface, wherein selectively providing includes providing the identified billing records via the defined delivery option, and wherein the identified billing records include individual transaction charges associated with the user's telecommunications account which satisfy the one or more parameters of the query received from the user."

Claims 67-72 present various aspects of the subject matter of cancelled claims 1 – 65.

Applicants understand that additional searching may be required by the Examiner. Although no agreement was reached during the interview, applicants are encouraged by the Examiner's indication that the cited references apparently do not teach or suggest claim 66.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that claim 66 is allowable over the cited references. New claims 67-72 depend from claim 66 and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim from which they depend.

Applicants submit claims 66-72 are in condition for allowance and requests favorable reconsideration of this application.

Any charges or overpayment should be applied to deposit account 19-1345.

                              Respectfully submitted,

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